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Naval power in the war (1914-1918). By C. C. Gill, commander, United States navy. (New York: George H. Doran company, 1919. 302 p. \$1.50)

Many years must indeed elapse before we can write about the great war just closing with the cold-blooded scientific precision with which we handle the campaigns of Napoleon, but that fact does not prevent the publication of useful and enlightening books on the more recent subject.

Commander Gill's volume can fairly claim the above commendation. The majority of the chapters are based upon the lectures the author gave to the midshipmen in the Annapolis naval academy. They were next published in the *New York Times current history magazine*. Now they appear in book form along with considerable new matter, especially a chapter relating to the naval side of the Dardanelles operations.

Such a work can contain few startling disclosures, and there is the obvious pressure upon an author still in the active service of the navy to refrain from many political allusions, or from indulging in statements critical of the strategy and tactics of various high officers. This detracts from the readability and general value of the book, and makes some parts seem a little dry and impersonal. In no other convenient volume, however, can an American find so clear and on the whole so non-technical an account of the Coronel and Falkland engagements and of the various encounters in the North sea, culminating in the indecisive battle of Jutland. The diagrams of the different engagements are clear and helpful, and the language entirely within reach of the non-nautical.

The chapter on the Dardanelles attack is probably the best in the book, and brings out clearly the various factors which brought to nought what was for the British a gallant and promising beginning. It is rightly explained that the egregious blunder in lading the transports, so that the needful artillery and munitions were buried in the holds under tons of tentage and other impedimenta, thereby occasioning nearly a month's delay in beginning the land attack, was probably the one thing which was ruinous to the success of the entire expedition, and incidentally it may be added probably sealed the fate of Russia.

Commander Gill is lenient in his treatment of Jellicoe in the Jutland battle, but he makes it very clear that that admiral hardly proved himself to be a Nelson.

In brief this unpretending book is genuinely helpful toward the understanding of a very important phase of the war.

WILLIAM S. DAVIS